A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

THE BUSY QUILL

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ROLL FOR INITIATIVE: THE RISE OF LIT RPG

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WHEN READERS AND GAMERS COLLIDE

MLitRPG, short for "Literary Role-Playing Game," is a fast-growing genre of fiction that blends traditional storytelling with the mechanics of video games. In a LitRPG novel, characters often level up, gain experience points, unlock skills, and navigate virtual worlds governed by game-like rules. Think of it as fantasy or sci-fi storytelling with a stats screen.

The genre's roots lie in online gaming culture, MMORPGs, and tabletop RPGs like Dungeons & Dragons. Readers familiar with those systems find a natural connection in LitRPG's structure–and a sense of immersion that feels interactive, even though it's written.

What makes LitRPG so popular? It's the perfect storm of escapism, progress, and strategy. Readers watch characters grow stronger in quantifiable ways, often overcoming overwhelming odds through clever choices and resourcefulness.

It's part power fantasy, part puzzle-solving, and completely addictive.

Whether you're a gamer or a reader looking for high-stakes adventure in digital worlds, LitRPG offers a compelling blend of action, humor, and meta-narrative that's leveling up fast in the world of genre fiction.

MY FIVE

THIS MONTH: ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

1. Dungeons & Dragons (of course!)
2. Vampire: The Masquerade
3. Call of Cthulhu
4. DC Heroes
5. RuneQuest

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

VEIL TAKES THE GOLD!

NEW RELEASE!

FEATURED GUEST: ALLORA LEE

JBC: WHAT IS YOUR 15-SECOND ELEVATOR PITCH FOR A SHADOWED AWAKENING?

AL: A Shadowed Awakening is about a woman reincarnated in a fantasy world (as one is) but she is NOT happy to be there. She had a great life in the before and now she's been reborn in the worst way possible---as an eight year old! It heavily features shadow and crafting magic, as well as magic as a coping mechanism.

JBC: HOW DO YOU WRITE CHARACTERS WHO ARE "PLAYERS" VERSUS "NPCS"?

AL: Well, technically I don't! In my book everyone has access to the same leveling system. Thus, it's more in depth when creating a character. Though, typically the main characters and side characters have more interesting Classes and Skills than everyone else!

JCB: LITRPG BLENDS NARRATIVE STORYTELLING WITH TECHNICAL, ALMOST RULE-BASED ELEMENTS. HOW DOES THAT IMPACT YOUR WRITING PROCESS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL FANTASY OR SCI-FI?

AL: Soooooooo many spreadsheets. Experience, levels, attributes, they all have to be accounted for in a fight---and a conversation. It's a lot more work on the back end to be honest. Otherwise, it's similar to any other hard magic system. All magic has its limits.